



**Washington State Rehabilitation Council**  
**PO Box 45343**  
**Olympia, WA 98504-5343**  
**1-866-252-2939**  
[www.wastrehabcouncil.org](http://www.wastrehabcouncil.org)

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August 20, 2015

MaryAnne Lindeblad  
Medicaid Director  
Washington State Health Care Authority

Subject: Letter of Support, Medicaid Sec. 1115 Waiver Application

The Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC) is writing to express their support for the Health Care Authorities effort to seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for Section 1115 waiver authority.

The WSRC acts as the consumer voice for people with disabilities engaging the public vocational rehabilitation system. Currently, more than 50% of the people receiving services from DVR are individuals with behavioral health disabilities.

Our Council supports the flexibility provided by a section 1115 waiver. The IPS Supported Employment model will have a dramatic effect on individuals with behavioral health disabilities ability to get and maintain competitive employment. Employment is a key to financially self-sufficient and being a productive community member which reduces the need for further social services.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (360) 725-3690 or [Teesha.Kirschbaum@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:Teesha.Kirschbaum@dshs.wa.gov)

Thank you,

Teesha Kirschbaum, MS, CRC  
Executive Director